

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1 (previously amended). A method for comparing two electrical signals, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) comparing the signals to each other and to at least one threshold to produce a binary representation of the comparisons;
- (b) converting a plurality of binary representations into a first count; and
- (c) comparing the first count to at least one count threshold.

2 (previously amended). The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein comparing step (a) includes the steps of:

- comparing the signals in an analog comparator;
- sampling the output of the comparator to produce said binary representation of the comparison.

3 (amended). The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein comparing step (c) includes the step of (d) providing a binary indication of the results of [the comparison] comparing the first count to at least one count threshold.

4 (original). The method as set forth in claim 3 and further including the step of:

- (e) controlling a first accumulator and a second accumulator with said binary indication;
 - wherein the first accumulator counts consecutive binary indications of the same value; and
 - the second accumulator increments or decrements in accordance with the binary indication.

5 (original). The method as set forth in claim 4 and further including the step of:

- (f) logically comparing the counts in the accumulators to produce a binary signal.

6 (original). The method as set forth in claim 5 wherein step (f) includes the steps of:

- comparing the count in the first accumulator to a threshold and producing a first single bit representation of the comparison;

- comparing the count in the second accumulator to a threshold and producing a second single bit representation of the comparison;

- logically combining the first bit representation with the second bit representation.

7(original, non-elected). In an accumulator including an up-down counter and logic for preventing roll-over, the improvement comprising:

- a first boundary for roll-over, wherein said boundary is less than the capacity of said up-down counter; and

- a first multiplexer coupled to said logic for preventing roll-over for supplying a first predetermined count to said up-down counter when the count in said counter is incremented past said first boundary.

8 (original, non-elected). The accumulator as set forth in claim 7, wherein said accumulator includes logic for preventing roll-under, said improvement further comprising:

- a second boundary for roll-under, wherein said boundary is greater than the minimum count of said up-down counter; and

- a second multiplexer coupled to said logic for preventing roll-under for supplying a second predetermined count to said up-down counter when said counter is decremented past said second boundary.